

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 06645 061141Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----065797 061145Z /15

O 061100Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9809
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 6645

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RH, MZ, US, UK, PINS, PDEV
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: THE RHODESIAN RAID ON CHIMOIO

REF: STATE 289251

1. I CONVEYED THE POINTS ON CHIMOIO RAID CONTAINED
IN REFTTEL TO HAWKINS ON MONDAY, DEC. 5. IN THE ABSENCE
OF FOURIE AND HIS DEPUTY, VAN DALSEN, DCM SAW NEXT IN
LINE, JOHN BECKER, UNDER-SECRETARY, NORTH AND LATIN
AMERICAN DIVISION OF DFA. THE LATTER MADE NO COMMENT
OTHER THAN TO ASK CONFIRMATION DCM WAS EXPRESSING VIEWS
OF USG AND TO SAY OUR APPROACH WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE
ATTENTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA THAT SAME AFTERNOON.
HAWKINS, HOWEVER, REACTED SHARPLY. HAWKINS SAID THAT
THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF AMERICA'S "DOUBLE STANDARD"
AND "SELECTIVE MORALITY". HE ASSERTED THAT THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN NEGOTIATING INITIATIVE WAS DEAD BECAUSE THE PF
DID NOT WANT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BUT ONLY A SOLUTION
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THROUGH THE GUN. DESPITE THIS USG CONDEMNS RHODESIA
FOR TAKING DEFENSIVE ACTION. I TOLD HAWKINS THAT
RHODESIANS DECEIVE THEMSELVES IF THEY THINK THAT THE
ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORT IS DEAD. IT IS VERY MUCH ALIVE
AND IS BEING PURSUED. THERE CAN BE NO JUSTIFICATION
FOR THE CHIMOIO IN TERMS OF THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF
WHITES IN RHODESIA DESPITE ANY IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGE THAT

MIGHT HAVE BEEN GAINED.

2. HAWKINS COUNTERED THAT THE RAIDS WERE SPECIFICALLY AIMED TO SPOIL THE PF OFFENSIVE WHICH WAS BEING PLANNED FOR THE START OF THE RAINY SEASON. AT THE TWO CENTERS HIT SOME 3,000 GUERRILLAS WERE BEING ASSEMBLED AND SUPPLIED WITH THE ARMS COMING MOSTLY FROM MAPUTO. IF THEY HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO INFILTRATE RHODESIA, IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN 18 MONTHS TO ROOT THEM OUT WITH UNTOLD LOSS OF LIFE IN RHODESIA AMONG WHITES AND BLACKS. IT IS TRAGIC IF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE HURT DURING THE RAIDS, BUT CLEARLY THE EXERCISE WAS PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION AGAINST GUERRILLA CONCENTRATIONS.

3. I REPEATED ARGUMENTS CONTAINED IN TALKING POINTS AND STRESSED THAT ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ARE VERY MUCH ALIVE. HAWKINS PROMISED TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO SALISBURY.
BOWDLER

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